

REMARKS

Applicants submit this communication as a supplemental amendment in order to make various amendments to the specification of this application, and to introduce new claims. The submission of this communication is in addition to, not in lieu of Applicants' November 19, 2003 response to the August 27, 2003 office action, which represents the most recent office action received by Applicants in connection with this application. Moreover, the submission of this communication is not in any way meant to imply that Applicants November 19, 2003 response was not a full and complete response to the August 27, 2003 office action.

As noted above, various portions of the specification are amended herein. The majority of these amendments consist of changing the terms "controlled noise signal" and "noise signal" to "cumulative error signal." These amendments are made for purposes of clarification. In particular, these amendments are introduced to clarify this discussion, in this application, of the technology disclosed in Japanese unexamined patent publication *Tokukaihei* 9-185707 ("the '707 publication").

As filed, this application referred to the signal processing technology described in the '707 publication as being carried out by random addition of either a "controlled noise signal" or a "noise signal." However, upon Applicants' review of U.S. Patent No. 6,040,876 ("the '876 patent"), which is the U.S. patent that corresponds to the '707 publication, it was noted that the correct term was actually "cumulative error signal." This interpretation is consistent with the specification of this application as filed, including, *inter alia*, page 2, lines 14-21, which recite that error diffusion method avoids accumulation of errors by adding - to a video signal - a signal prepared by delaying a signal which has been obtained from rounding off a less significant bit from a video signal. And as confirmed by the '876 patent, the signal to be added to the video signal is known in the art as a cumulative error signal.

Thus, for purposes of clarification, all references to "controlled noise signal" and "noise signal" that were included in the specification and referred to the technology described in the '707 publication have been changed to "cumulative error signal."

No new matter is added by these amendments, which not only modify the specification to correctly describe the signal processing technology recited in the '707 publication, but also serve to distinguish the phrase "cumulative error signal" (as used to describe the technology of the '707 publication) from the phrase "noise signal" (as used elsewhere in the specification and recited in the claims of this application).

Applicants note, for the record, that a copy of the '876 patent was included with Applicants' April 10, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement filing, and thus an additional copy is not enclosed herein.

The specification - more specifically, the first paragraph of the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION section of the application starting on page 2, line 23 - is further amended to replace the phrase "by gamma correction" with the phrase "on a display image." This amendment is likewise made for clarification purposes.

Pseudo contour is generated on a display image not only when gamma correction is carried out. For example, and as described at page 25, lines 22-25 of the specification of this application, pseudo contour is generated on a display image when bit lack is caused in the quantized video signal. The disclosure of the '876 patent further confirms that pseudo contour generation is not limited to instances in which gamma correction is carried out (see, e.g., column 1, lines 30-41 and column 3, lines 32-43). In view of at least the contents of this application and the '876 patent, it would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that, in general, pseudo contour is generated not only when gamma correction is carried out.

Thus, the portion of the specification noted above is amendment to replace the phrase "gamma correction" with the phrase "on a display image" in order to clarify that pseudo contour occurs not only when the gamma correction is carried out.

No new matter is added by this amendment, which, as noted above, comports with other portions of the specification of this application, as filed, with the disclosure of the '876 patent, and with the understanding of one of ordinary skill in the art.

Regarding the new claims, they are added to seek patent protection for additional embodiments of the present invention. No new matter is added in any of these new claims, which Applicants submit are allowable over the previously cited references, including the references that formed the basis of claim rejections in the August 27, 2003 office action.

Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of this supplemental amendment in addition to, not in lieu of Applicants' November 19, 2003 response to the August 27, 2003.

If the undersigned can be of any assistance in advancing the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact him through the information given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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By: _____

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